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## **For Immediate Release**

**May 4, 2011**

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### **Statement of Jeffrey C. McKay, Secretary-Treasurer, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission**

Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee), secretary-treasurer of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), testified today at the Commonwealth Transportation Board's public hearing on Virginia's Six-Year Transportation program.

McKay, who also chairs the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Transportation Committee, commented on the importance of transit to the region's economic development and its critical role in sustaining the economic recovery. He cited NVTC studies showing that since Metrorail's inception, it has generated 90,000 jobs and state tax revenues of over a billion dollars in excess of state investments in the system.

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McKay observed that, “Northern Virginia generates more than 10 times the level of local efforts to fund transit compared to the rest of Virginia. Local funding sources, including general funds, the regional gas tax, fares, and transit parking fees provide almost 60 percent of the \$750 million a year that it costs to operate and maintain our transit systems. While the \$140 million included in the draft CTB six-year plan is significant, the Commonwealth still falls far short of achieving the statutory 95 percent target for state funding of eligible transit costs.

McKay called for the governor and general assembly to increase transit funding and for the CTB to increase its discretionary state and federal funds to accommodate transit needs. He said that, “there are few investments more important when you are trying to grow the economy than transit. Transit creates jobs, gets people to work, and is good for the environment.”

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